



TRAFFIC ALERT

VirginiaDOT.org

RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
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LANE CLOSURES AND BLASTING SET AT I-81 TRUCK CLIMBING LANE PROJECT

STAUNTON – Lane closures are scheduled for the Interstate 81 truck climbing lane project in Rockbridge County. The right northbound will be closed from mile marker 201.5 to mile marker 202.7 from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. on Aug. 30 and Aug. 31. Median barrier placement will be done in this location.

Blasting will occur along I-81 on Aug. 31 and Sept. 2 at 1 pm. The blasting locations will be from mile marker 197.5 to mile marker 199 and at the Route 712 bridge. Signs are posted in this area. Both northbound and southbound lanes will have a rolling mobile lane closure.

The blasting is part of the I-81 truck climbing lane project in Rockbridge County. The work zone is along the northbound lanes from mile marker 195.6 to 202.5, which is just north of Lexington. Blasting days will change weekly depending on project progress. Both northbound and southbound lanes will have a rolling mobile lane closure. Traffic will be slowed down so the blast area is clear of traffic during the actual blast period. Traffic will immediately resume through the area once conditions are deemed safe by crews at the site. Blasting operations are estimated to continue through November.

The I-81 truck climbing lane project valued at \$74.2 million was awarded by Commonwealth Transportation Board on Feb. 5, 2009 to W. C. English Inc. of Lynchburg. Completion is scheduled for fall 2012.

The VDOT Staunton District serves Frederick, Shenandoah, Clarke, Warren, Page, Rockingham, Augusta, Highland, Rockbridge, Alleghany and Bath counties.

Traffic alerts and traveler information can be obtained by dialing 511. In areas where 511 is unavailable, dial 1-866-MY511VA (866-695-1182) (TTY/TDD users, call 711). Traffic alerts and traveler information also are available at 511Virginia.org.

Highway safety is everyone's responsibility. Virginia's highway safety partnership — the Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles and Virginia State Police — challenges you to help prevent highway fatalities. Buckle up. Avoid distractions. Share the road. Drive drug- and alcohol-free. Obey speed limits. For more information on the Highway Safety Challenge and things you can do to avoid becoming Virginia's next traffic fatality, visit www.safeVAhighways.org.

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